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New Expression

A magazine by Chicago teens for Chicago teens.

Vol. 3 No. 2

February, 1980



Photo by Floyd McGee

Do you fit into this picture?

Registration, and maybe another draft, raises this question for every teen. We asked the Presidential candidates who will be on the ballot next month in the Illinois primary

election where they stand on the draft and on other youth issues. That's on page 3. Our view is on page 9.

THE INSIDE TRACK

They're out of things to study

Adults have taken it upon themselves to "study" teenagers. Every few days a new article appears in *The Tribune* or *The Sun-Times* with a headline like "Latest study shows that teenagers..." (fill in the blank yourself.)

These studies are very popular. I can hear those adult minds clicking. "So that's what those teens think. Why that's..." (fill in either "fascinating" or "disgusting.")

Did you know that many suburban teens:

- View their lives as empty and meaningless.
- Hate school and consider it an unpaid labor.
- Have "casual" attitudes toward sex and drugs.

Did you know that the nation's "A" students:

- Don't believe that teens should indulge in drugs or sex.
- Believe in censorship of newspapers
- Don't approve of women's lib or gay rights.

Did you know that most U.S. teenagers:

- Have been in love at least once.
- Feel that the country's economy will get worse in the next ten years.
- Feel that their lives will get better in the next ten years.

Exciting, isn't it? Adults have studied nearly everything there is to study about us. They've studied our attitudes in sex, love, life, death and peer pressure. They know our smoking and eating habits; our fantasies and our fears.

The problem is — they're running out of things to study.

This could cause big trouble. The thousands of people who make up the studies may lose their jobs. Adults might get nervous if the studies stop coming.

"Martha, what kind of teens are there these days. They don't do nuthin'."

"Sure don't, honey. I don't ever read any of those surveys about their attitudes any more. Somethin' fishy's goin' on."

So... Help these poor adults

As a public service, "Inside Track" is announcing an "Areas of Great Interest for Adults to Study Teens" contest. This column is asking you to send ideas for new studies. Don't worry about how silly or boring they might sound. Adults will love them.

Send all suggestions to Inside Track, New Expression, 207 S. Wabash, Chicago, Ill. 60604. This column will print the best suggestions.

Announcing

Inside Track's What—Adults—Want —To—Know— About Teens Contest

Stripped of education... and clothes

The Board of Education is being sued for \$150,000 on behalf of a 13-year-old student who charges that he was strip-searched in school last March.

The suit charges that the 13-year-old and five of his classmates were strip-searched when their teacher reported \$11 missing from her purse. It seems that they were innocent. No money was found.

Those same students have a bigger reason to be mad at the Board now. They all had learning disabilities. And now the Board is threatening to strip them of the special programs designed to help them get an equal education.

By now everyone knows why the Board is cutting back. But why save money with disabled learners? It doesn't make sense to cut classes for handicapped students. They have enough obstacles to overcome.

It would make more sense to cut back programs for honors students or advanced level students. The bright students should be able to work on their own in an emergency.

One good apple in the Access plan

The Board of Education is also making drastic cuts in the Access to Excellence program.

This comes at the end of the first semester. I wonder if the Board members have considered what it's like to be half-way to excellence.

Even worse, think of some of the great Access programs which will probably never get off the ground. One of these programs at the new Richard Daley High School was supposed to train teenagers interested in a career in politics. Now, that program to train Chicago politicians may never happen.

Teacher: Okay, class, what would you do if you were mayor and the city was running out of money? Bobby?

Bobby: Well, it's simple. Look at the excellent way we financed the junior prom. Our bake sale extravaganza was a complete success. When I'm mayor, though, I won't be selling cookies and doughnuts. It'll be a big time operation. Yes, I'm talking about taffey apples!

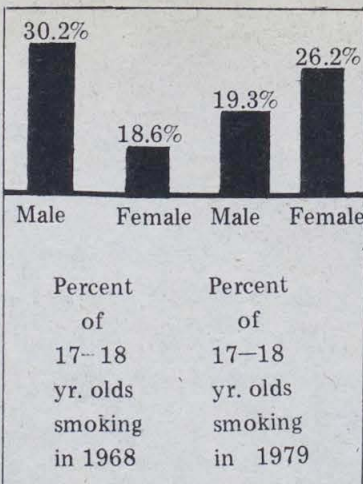
The excellent kind with the diced nuts.

Teacher: That's a very good plan, Bobby. But suppose the unions are mad at you and won't buy your apples?

Bobby: Well, the excess apples could be hung on the Christmas tree in Daley Plaza or we could poison them and leave them out for the rats.

Teacher: Excellent! Class, this is the perfect example of a good political plan. Class dismissed... Oh, good, Bobby, you're leaving those custard Danish for me. Much better than those sugar twists you used to leave. They were too fattening.

Teen-aged girls are up in smoke



You've got your own cigarette now, baby,
You've come a long, long way.

Well, our generation sure bought into the words of that Virginia Slims commercial. Teen females really are liberated when it comes to cigarette smoking.

Ten years ago nearly twice as many teen males were smoking as teen females. But, suddenly, the number of teen-aged girls smoking has risen dramatically. Last year more 17- to 18-year-old girls were smoking than males the same age.

This sudden switch in styles could revolutionize the things young men look for in an ideal girl friend. It could change the prom fantasy. It could even change the love poems we write...

We talked about the birds and bees;

I'll remember it 'til death —
Your bloodshot eyes,
Your ragged wheeze,
Your nicotine-laced breath.



Cover Photo: Carter's proposal to require registration for the draft is on a lot of teens' minds these days. Floyd McGee shot this picture in an attempt to capture the mood. See pages 3 and 6 for comments by the presidential candidates about the draft. Our editorial on page 9 suggests some questions to think about.

New Expression

A magazine by Chicago teens for Chicago teens.

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Youth meet city leaders; You're invited

Do you have some ideas or opinions to add to the story on Sex Education in this issue of **New Expression**? What about the drug issue? Career education? Then "Youth Perspective" is a place for you to be heard.

As we explained in the January issue of **New Expression**, our Jan. 15 Youth Perspective Conference had to be cancelled because the adult leaders we wanted to attend were all tied up with the school crisis in the city.

Now we are set to hold mini-conferences in neighborhood communities. Youth are invited to attend... and talk. These hearings are your affair if you'll take the time to attend.

Here are the dates and places of the first three mini-conferences. Look for more listings to come. No charge.

Saturday, March 1, 10 am, I Am That I Am Mission, 1800 W. Hastings.

Sunday, March 2, 4 pm, Alba Community Center, 1324 S. Loomis.

Saturday, March 15, 10 am, Brainard Community Organization at Trinity Church of God, 532 W. 95th.

For more information, call **New Expression** at 663-0543.

The next President talks about youth

Questions on Youth Issues that we asked the Presidential Candidates

Youth Employment:

How do you propose to reduce youth unemployment?

Many poor teens can't survive on 12 hours a week at \$3.10 per hour so they do not apply for the CETA program. But the jobs they do seek usually don't offer training as the CETA jobs do. Do you see the need to change this condition?

Truth-in-testing legislation:

Do you support national truth-in-testing legislation similar to the legislation passed in New York State, which forces testing companies to give student testees their corrected test answer sheets and to make their test methods public?

The draft

Do you support the re-activation of compulsory draft registration?

Would you include women in this plan for

compulsory draft registration?

Since the country is now at peace, do you support peace-time registration and conscription?

President Carter has used the term "Selective Service." Do you favor this system of drafting with classification and deferments or do you have a plan to create a non-classified system where all non-institutional persons from 18 to 27 would be eligible to serve?

Federal programs relating to the family

Should the federal government be providing more programs to respond to the increased problems of family instabilities in the country today? Problem areas such as runaways, child abuse, abandoned children, the lack of conformity in state custody laws, the pressures in single-parent and working-parent homes?

Here's how the Democrats stand

President Jimmy Carter



The following responses were prepared by Jim Purks, a White House aide.

Youth employment: On Jan. 10 President Carter announced a new plan to help America's youth, especially disadvantaged youth, meet their employment problems. The new program will add \$2 billion to the present \$4 billion being spent on programs for youth employment.

The new program attacks the problem on two fronts at once. First, there will be a series of employment programs thru the Dept. of Labor. Carter has requested \$300 million in 1981 and \$1 billion in 1982 for these programs. Most of this money will go into part-time jobs for youth still in school, for education of drop-outs and for job counseling help in the schools.

Second, a program of basic skills training thru the Dept. of Education will be available to the neediest high school students where unemployment is highest. (The White House statement did not explain how this new program was different from the money now given the schools to help the neediest students. **New Expression** reported that this money is not now applied to high school reading in Chicago.)

According to Carter, "youth unemployment, especially for the poor and minorities, is unacceptably high."

Truth-in-testing: President Carter has not taken a position on this issue.

The Draft: We are currently at peace, but as President Carter has pointed out, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan represents possibly the greatest threat to peace since World War II. The President has called for military registration. Details of the registration process and a decision about whether or not to register women will be decided in two weeks (this was written on Feb. 3).

Registration would be for youth 18 to 26. It will be conducted at the nation's post offices with the person filling out a form giving his full name, address, age and Social Security number. The process could take less than a minute.

The Selective Service System will be revitalized (given new life since it was suspended in 1974). According to Carter, "I don't have any intention at this time to reinstitute the draft... but I think it is good for us to take precautionary steps."

Family issue: The Carter Administration has worked closely with Congress to improve child welfare services and foster care programs and to create a federal program of adoption assistance.

The work by Congress is almost complete. According to Carter, "The well-being of children in need of homes and their permanent placement are primary concerns of my Administration, and I am determined to see improvement in the system."

Carter established the Office of Families last year. That office will coordinate activities in this area, including the recommendations which will be made at the White House Conference on the Family this year.

Register to Vote

If you will be 18 years old by March 18, you can register throughout Chicago to vote in the Illinois Presidential Primary on Feb. 19.

Chicago will hold a one-day-only special registration in all Precinct Offices on that day. If you don't know the location of your Precinct Office, ask around your neighborhood or ask a local merchant.

Because this is a primary election, you will have to declare yourself a Democrat or Republican.

Sen. Edward Kennedy

These answers were supplied by Jay Irwitz, an aide on youth policy to Senator Kennedy.

Youth unemployment: Kennedy has a variety of ideas to reduce youth unemployment. First of all, the places that are given government money to employ youth must prove that real training is taking place. The places that really help students will continue to be offered youth employees. The others will be dropped.

The jobs created must last at least a year and they must be real jobs demanding skills and not clean-up jobs.

Truth-in-testing: The Senator doesn't have a position on this issue at this time.

The Draft: He opposes the reactivation of compulsory draft registration. He doesn't believe that we should draft people now and doesn't support peace-time registration. He opposes it in the current situation, and favors it only in an emergency.

Family issue: The federal government should be providing more programs to respond to family instability. He sponsored a bill on teenaged pregnancy which now provides day care centers for teen mothers who want to continue their education. That



bill also provides support for improved nutrition for teen mothers and their babies.

He supports a welfare reform bill that offers assistance to two-parent families who are unable to find employment. He feels that you bust up the family if you only allow the family to receive aid when there's no father there.

Reported by Fannie LeFlore

Governor Jerry Brown



The answers were supplied by Carl Uetz and Colleen Harmon of the Illinois Campaign Office.

Youth employment: "He supports job training programs for private sector employment with training being linked through community colleges." ("Private sector" means places that sell for a profit like Sears and the Jewel.)

The Draft: Colleen Harmon said that "He is opposing registration and draft in a peace-time situation. A lottery should not have restrictions based on age. It should be based on capabilities." According to Carl Uetz, Brown believes in a professional army of paid enlisted people. Brown feels that the drafting of young people is "an undue tax on a specific class of people." Harmon also said that "judging from Brown's position on the ERA, he would not be a person to support the draft for one group (men) and not another (women). At any rate, he is completely against the draft."

Reported by Enid Vazquez

See page 6 for the
Republicans' stand

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NEW EXPRESSION

Sex Ed. — The 'R-rated' class

by Frank Burgos
and Jacqueline Ryan

- Nearly 40% of all babies born in Chicago in 1978 were born out of wedlock, and teenage pregnancies account for 23% of all births.

- In Illinois, in 1977, hospitals reported 602 babies born to women under 15.

- 94% of teen women who have babies keep them rather than give them up for adoption.

- The risk to mother and child's health is 60% higher for teenagers than for a pregnant woman in her twenties.

- Teenage pregnancies cost America about \$8.3 million annually in welfare and related costs.

Newspapers and television have paid plenty of attention to the problem of teenage pregnancy. Yet little notice is given to the restrictions on sex education in public and private schools. Rarely is any connection made between the two, as if one had nothing to do with the other.

"We're not in the business of preventing pregnancy," says Beverly Johnson, director of the Family Life education program for the Chicago School Board. "If someone wants to get pregnant, it's none of our business."

Johnson heads the Family Life programs for Chicago high schools. She is the only full-time person at the Board dealing with sex education for close to 50 high schools in the city.

According to Johnson, not all high schools have a sex ed program because of administration and financial problems.

"For instance," she says, "because of the integration plan some schools lost teachers who were needed for family life education. These teachers had taken a six-hour training course. And because of financial difficulties, the board didn't offer this training course again between 1974 and 1978."

It was also because of financial problems that the position Johnson currently holds has been vacant for two years.

"People in the Bureau of Science worked on the program, but that wasn't enough without a full-time person. Even one full-time person is not enough.

"But the Board has been very willing to finance whatever we need. They're behind the program now; they want it to succeed," she said. (This statement was made before the November disclosures about the Board's financial problems.)

Yet even with the desire to help, bureaucratic guidelines established by the state and city school



"There are certain subjects that we teachers are not supposed to discuss unless we are specifically asked, such as abortion, homosexuality and masturbation."

boards are not helping to clarify the sex education program in high schools. Some of the guidelines are downright contradictory.

According to the revised guidelines for teaching family life education in the Chicago Public Schools: "In teaching family life and sex education, it is important to establish open communication with students in order to deal with their questions and concerns."

Yet these same guidelines state that students should be referred to their parents, and/or resource school personnel, such as a counselor, teacher, nurse or social worker for in-depth information.

It is as though the teacher is given the opportunity to avoid answering the "embarrassing" questions that would demand "open communication."

The guidelines also say that

"The teaching of in-depth information about contraception, abortion, homosexuality and masturbation must be decided by the individual school administration in cooperation with the parents, the PTA and the school-community council." As a result, if the administration believes that this information should not be taught, that reason alone will satisfy officials at the Board of Education.

This guideline can also be interpreted in another way. Diane Himmelman, sex education teacher at Lindblom High School, believes that "there are certain subjects that we teachers are not supposed to discuss unless we are specifically asked, such as abortion, homosexuality and masturbation."

So if students do not think that they can ask the question, they will not get an answer. Since the topics are not considered part of the curriculum, and thus ignored, the message to students is that they are subjects that should not be brought up.

Board of Education officials admit that there is no provision for evaluation of the sex ed classes. The guidelines of the Chicago Board provides a loose basis for family life courses so that courses tend to differ from school to school and from teacher to teacher.

The Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Act says that "Crash programs emphasizing special health topics only, should be avoided." Yet, Jeffrey Nichols, former Whitney Young High School student, said, "My sex education course was a lesson in identifying different kinds of venereal diseases. We never really discussed anything else." It was, in other words, a crash course.

Sex education and family life receive considerably less funding

than other programs in the curriculum, according to Beverly Johnson. "Much of the money goes to teacher training. Perhaps a larger budget should be devoted to this program."

And there is very little student input into the curriculum, she says. "There is not much direct student involvement, but teachers who are responsive to the student needs are involved in the course development," she claims.

While Johnson believes that there is little pressure on individual school administrators about what is being taught, Rachel Pollock and Clover Gowing of the Illinois Family Planning Council, say that the school decides what is and what isn't taught. "Administrators," they say, "are pressured into teaching what the community wants to hear."

The Chicago-area Catholic high schools also reflect the community, even though they do not have written guidelines for their sexuality education programs, according to Patsy Belinger of the Catholic School Board.

"So we have many styles of teaching in our system," Belinger says. "However, any teachings on birth control must reflect the view of the Church, which is negative.

"But there is no difficulty referring kids who are sexually active to places where they can get birth control," she said.

Almost every Catholic high school in the Chicago area has a sexuality course, Belinger says.

Editor's Note

This investigation of sex education in Chicago schools was conducted last summer by Jackie Ryan and Frank Burgos. The article was originally published in "Youth Perspective" as part of Youth Communication's observance of The International Year of the Child. A copy of "Youth Perspective" should be available in your school library.

Photo by Melvin Banks II

"It's often included in the religion program, or in other courses such as sociology, biology, current problems or marriage.

"That's the way it should be, because sexuality is a part of everything. We're deeply interested in helping all the young people in our schools to live Christian, complete lives, and that includes sexuality."

As for the Chicago public schools, teachers are now taking training courses provided by the Board of Education, and sources close to the Board predict that there will be trained and certified educators in every high school before the end of the school year.

And yet, certification, by itself, does not guarantee that a teacher will be able to foster an open atmosphere for discussion. Ms. Himmelman of Lindblom says that she's comfortable in her class and prepared to answer most questions. "But many teachers are not comfortable," she says, "especially physical education teachers who are often confronting a classroom as a beginning teacher. Many male physical education teachers normally imagine themselves as 'jocks.' Teaching sex education may not fit that image, and they may be uncomfortable."

The Board does offer workshops to help teachers feel more comfortable in their classes. The workshops are staffed by doctors who understand the medical content of the course but not necessarily the skills in leading group discussions afterwards.

But understanding the medical content by itself will not solve the problem caused by teen pregnancy.

An answer is clearly needed. The numbers speak for themselves.

Recommendations

Adults who realize that sex education can no longer be considered a taboo should speak out at PTA, community and church group meetings.

Existing programs, such as Private Line and the "Express" radio program, should continue to be supported.

Colleges should institute comprehensive training programs for new and veteran teachers to help them deal with sensitive issues and open communication in sex education classes.

Sex education should be available to all high school students.

Include out-of-school classes and discussion sessions in neighborhood clinics, churches or family planning clinics where teachers would have to meet qualifications to be accredited. These sessions would have a less intimidating atmosphere and could be funded by out-of-school sources. Students could be released from school to attend these credited classes. If under age 17, a student would need parental permission. He/she could still attend after-school sessions for no credit.

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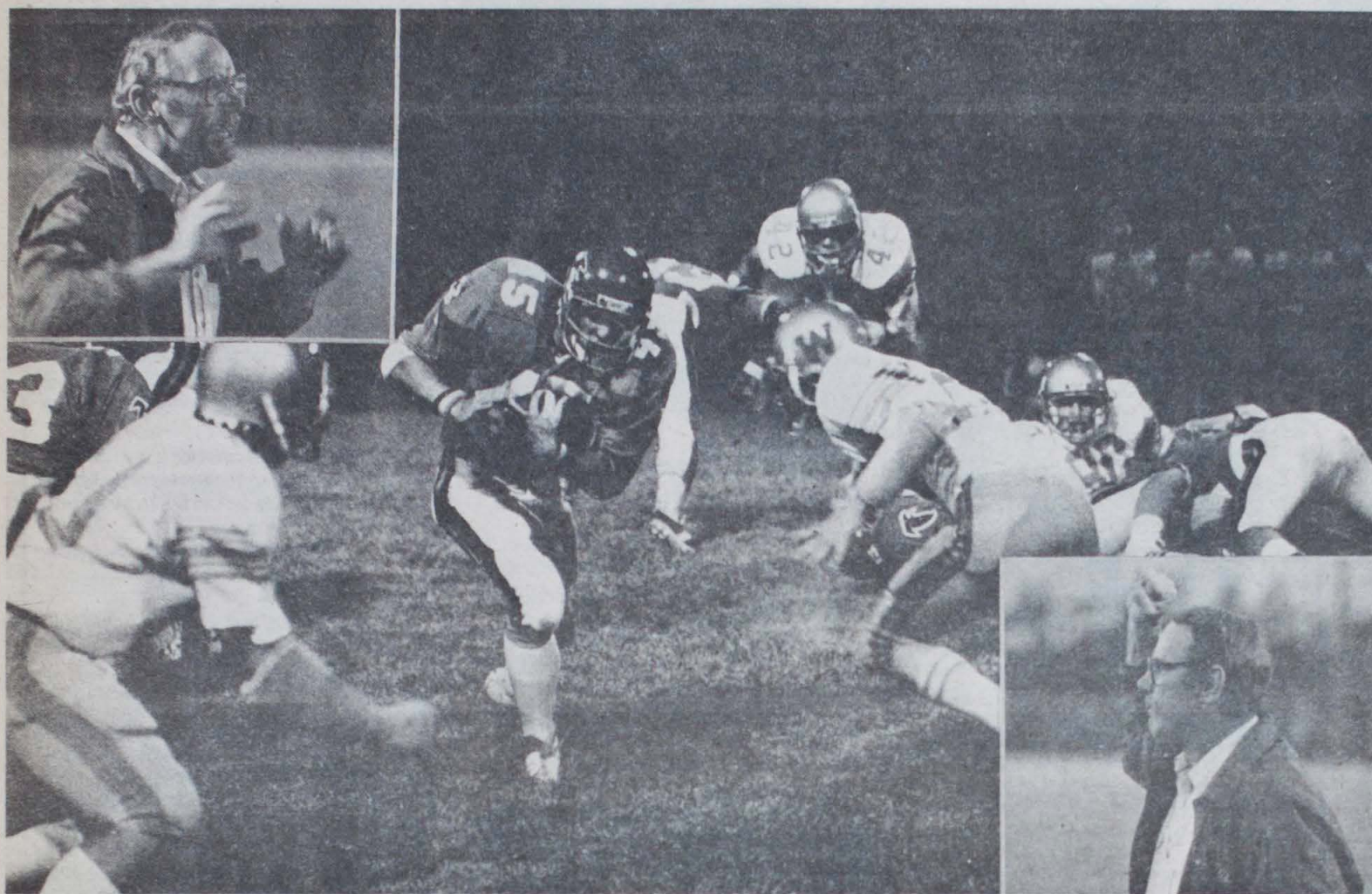


Photo by Melvin Banks II

"I must instill in them a feeling that they will do whatever I say. I must be, on the field, their god."

by Eric Abrams
and Rhonda Hannah
with Joyce Jordon
and Ruth Thornton

"I'm not proud of it, but yes, I have taken pills before games," said a south suburban high school football player. Understandably, he did not want his name printed. "The pills got me fired up," the senior linebacker added, "and they also cancel out anything but the desire to win."

This varsity athlete was one of 30 Chicago-area high school athletes interviewed by **New Expression** who admit they have a different set of values on the athletic field and in the locker room than they use at other times of the day. When we asked the football player if he commonly used drugs,

he replied, "No, never. Only before games."

The coaches we interviewed say that they know what goes on. "Yes, I know that some of our athletes have taken different things before games," said one suburban football coach. "But that is the price they must pay to win."

High school athletes seem to live this double standard because of the pressures on them to win. "I know there may be hell to pay in the future," said the linebacker, "but the rewards are worth it now."

This athlete's attitude is typical of the coaches and players we interviewed. "By making my players understand that I am their king I can make them into a cohesive, military-like unit," said a coach from the South Suburban League. "When one of my

athletes gets out of line, we all know what actions must be taken."

Greg Harris, a cross-country runner for Mendel captured this picture in describing his former coach. "Coach McAlister was unreal," he said. "If an athlete wasn't performing up to his capabilities, the coach would make him run constantly. If a meet was lost, the team would run at least twenty miles the next day."

One football coach told us that he sometimes hits players to make them follow orders. "I must instill in them a feeling that they will do whatever I say. I must be (on the field) their god."

A Public League football and wrestling coach from the South Side told us that he knew high school sports should be fun, but

that if he didn't win, he would be fired.

Losing high school athletes can't be fired for losing performances, but they can be ridiculed. One basketball player described the intensity of remarks shouted at him after he missed a shot at the buzzer that would have given his school a victory — words like "You're a choker," and "Can't take the pressure!"

Shouldn't a student-athlete be prepared for public criticism? Our interviews indicate that the pressure of the games themselves and the fans are pressure enough for most young athletes. The added stress of ridicule and team punishment after a loss is creating bitterness and is causing some athletes to resort to drugs and "unsportsman-like conduct."

But winning athletes know that their careers will be rewarded. One Catholic school principal from the South Side said that the only thing keeping some students from being expelled was their athletic ability. One athlete admitted that "football and basketball are all that's keeping me in school."

Athletes interviewed all admitted that girls pay attention to them because they have made the team. Victor Washington, a wrestler for Calumet, said, "You have to be on a popular sport for girls to get involved with you. You become noticed." Another football player from Westinghouse said, "The girls go crazy when you're on a football team." "My girlfriend has a lot to brag about," said a basketball player from Sullivan.

"Not only do the girls notice you," said Sherman Carter, a football player from Julian, "but other people look up to you. Teachers respect you more. They help you out because they know you're out there making a name for your school."

Scholarships, trophies and letter jackets take away the pressure and pain of injuries according to some athletes. Calvin Wilson, a basketball player from Clemente, admits he takes a risk when he's out there playing. "But I like sports and I want a scholarship when I go to college. I plan to make a living out of it."

For female athletes the story is usually different. "Being a female athlete is almost embarrassing," said Roxanne Summers, a senior volleyball player for Unity. "The boys think you're an Amazon, and the girls avoid you too."

The female athletes interviewed felt that their coaches treat them differently than they do the male athletes. One Public League coach who handles male and female track teams admitted that he yells at his male runners who don't perform to their capabilities, but he's likely to tell a girl just to try harder the next time.

One female basketball player from Mother McAuley disagreed with this generalization. "Our coaches have several ways of making us follow orders," she said. "They make us run laps and do extra calisthenics. Sometimes they seem evil, but we have a successful program. That's all that really counts, isn't it?"

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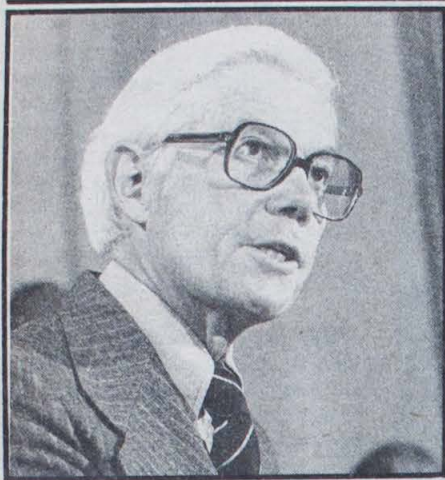


"It's one of the unique qualities of the Food & Nutrition Program here," says Rhonda Edwards. "You can go the straight scientific route with an American Dietetic Association approved program and head for a dietetics internship after you graduate. Or, while completing your B.S., you can link up your scientific training with courses in Management or Communications and open up a whole new array of job options for yourself."

"For my money, Mundelein's Food & Nutrition program is the best in the Mid West. With food one of the fastest growing industries in America, I'm glad I hung in here. Way down the line I have a dream goal of owning and managing my own health food franchise. But come June when I graduate, I'll be in the career cat-bird seat in any event."



Here's how the Republicans stand



Rep. John Anderson

Susan Starr in Anderson's Washington offices gave these answers in a phone interview.

Youth employment: Rep. Anderson believes that youth employees need special assistance. There are numerous studies that show that the new minimum wage laws are eliminating job opportunities for young men and women.

He has proposed the establishment of an "Opportunity Wage." This would allow for employment of teenagers at 85% of the minimum wage for the first six months of employment. "Business would be encouraged by the lower minimum wage to hire young people and mold them into valuable employees," according to Anderson.

Truth-in-testing: Rep. Anderson is not aware of this legislation and has not checked into it, so he has no answer at this time.

The Draft: Rep. Anderson does not support President Carter's peace-time registration. He is in favor of our voluntary services being given much more attention than they ever have before and more money being funneled into the quality of the present volunteer services. He does not think that the draft is appropriate at this time.

Family issue: He is especially aware of the lack of child care programs. He is concerned about domestic violence, especially violence towards women who are abused regularly in their marriages. He supports bills that would protect children against abuse in the home. He believes that the future welfare of this nation requires that child care be provided for children whose parents can not care for them.

Reported by Kim Lifton

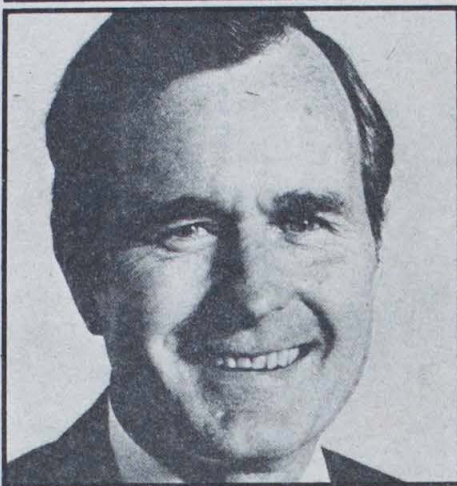
Senator Howard Baker

Senator Baker's Illinois campaign office said that Baker would not be in Illinois until the middle of February and that no one

could speak for him. We were also unable to get a response to our questions from his Washington office.

Governor John Connally

Gov. Connally's Illinois office told us that the answers to our questions could only be answered by the campaign's Washington office. However, our frequent calls to his Washington office did not produce answers. We were still waiting for a return phone call from his office at our deadline.



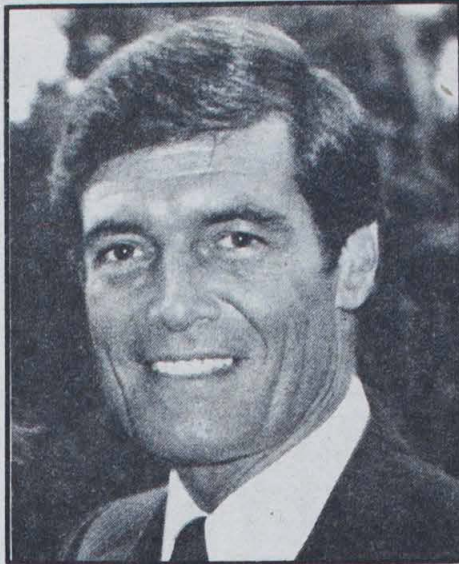
Ambassador George Bush

George Kancas of the Illinois Bush Campaign office said that only written material could explain George Bush's positions on the issues. He believes that an interviewer from **New Expression** might misquote what is said over the phone. So the Bush office did not make an attempt to respond to an oral interview.

The written material that **New Expression** received from Bush's office only responded to the draft. He favors national registration for both men and women and opposes reinstitution of the draft at this time.

Senator Robert Dole

It was impossible to secure an interview with any representative of the Dole campaign in Illinois or in Washington, D.C. Our requests occurred at a time when the Senator was deciding whether or not to stay in the presidential race, so this may be why we were unable to get a response.



Rep. Philip Crane

The only person who could speak for Representative Crane was conducting the campaign in North Carolina. We were unable to make contact.

According to a **Chicago Tribune** survey printed Feb. 3, "Crane opposes registration, the draft and the registration of women, pointing out that the problem for the military is not one of numbers but of quality."



Gov. Ronald Reagan

These answers were supplied by Don Totten, a press aide of Governor Reagan.

Youth unemployment: The Governor would probably favor encouragement to private industries to employ youth rather than continuing government programs such as CETA. (That means that the industries would get a tax break or other govern-

ment help in return for hiring unskilled youth employees.)

Governor Reagan would like to see minimum wage requirements relaxed (that means that employers could pay less than \$3.10 per hour.) He would like to see workers who are being trained earn less than the minimum wage until they have learned the skills they need for the job. Then the employee should be eligible for higher paying jobs.

He thinks CETA doesn't work because it doesn't give workers any motivation to gain a salary higher than the minimum wage.

Truth-in-testing: He doesn't know Gov. Reagan's position.

The Draft: The Governor is in favor of a volunteer army as it is now. This volunteer army should incorporate women as well as men.

Family issue: The Governor does not favor further federal government involvement in family problems. He would leave those programs up to each state.

Reported by Michelle Duster

This article on the presidential candidates' positions on youth is a joint project of **NEW EXPRESSION** reporters and **STUDENT PRESS SERVICE** reporters. The young reporters who spent a lot of time chasing down the persons who could speak for the candidates are Lisa Margerum, Michelle Duster, Fannie LeFlore and Enid Vazquez for **NEW EXPRESSION** and Paula Eubanks, Kim Lifton, Jon Schnyer for the **STUDENT PRESS SERVICE**.

New Expression's Creative Writing Contest deadline is extended until Feb. 22 because of school closing



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If you want to know what I mean by 'love'

Our series on "Teen Love" began last September with a story on Teen Divorce. We followed that with a story on Steady Dating in the November issue. Now, to conclude the series, we offer this page of impressions by teens about the "ideal love relationship."

The popular comic "Love is..." came to mind. We decided to let a variety of teens fill in the blanks. So, from *New Expression*, a happy Valentine's Day! Marea Parker, editor, with Lisa Margerum, Darlene Williams and David Duster

Photos by Melvin Banks II



It's a media dream



The media has affected me the most. The way television and the movies picture perfect couples, makes me want the same things out of a relationship.

Now I want to earn a very upper-middle-class living and have several "nice" kids, the usual dream relationship, more and more. I realize that finding the perfect wife for such a setting is going to be nearly impossible.

Tony, 17

I'd say the media have affected my attitudes. Television shoves the idea of the "perfect man" at me constantly.

But, another great influence would be my friends. We tend to have the same tastes and ideas about an ideal relationship. Everyone wants a comfortable relationship. And that means that the "ideal" varies greatly from person to

person according to our requirements for comfort.

Jennifer, 17

Stevie Wonder is affecting me the most. His whole attitude towards love is different from the sex and violence in so many other popular artists.

I plan to pattern my relationships on his philosophy of life as reflected in his songs and the way he conducts himself.

In his song "Seems So Long" I like the line when he says "I've got to see it all for myself." I figure he's saying not to take anyone else's word for what life is all about but find out for yourself.

Kenneth, 16

It's a deep friendship



Recently, I was very much affected by a fellow named Carl, who is three years older than I am. We both felt that he could adjust to my "rules" and I to his. We felt that we could deal sensibly with

the "ups and downs" of a liking and loving relationship.

I found that getting to know Carl was intriguing. We could talk about life in such a way that the conversation would last until we both felt completely drained. Carl's mannerisms and gentleness had a great affect on me. He would refuse to let me open a door for myself or walk a half inch behind him. He treated me the way I feel any young lady with self respect and pride should be treated.

The one very important reason why I grew to love Carl is that right now I don't feel that sex is for me. And he never pressured me. He respected my feelings about it.

To show how much I did care about him, I had seriously considered it, and after much thought changed my mind because I'm just not ready. Although it was like a push upward and then downward, he still did not get annoyed or impatient.

To come from the past to the present, in short, our relationship is broken.

Bridget, 17

It's what parents show

I feel that my mother and grandmother have affected my attitudes and ideas about ideal love relationships. At the onset of puberty my grandmother, Racheal, would talk to me about love and the precautions, responsibilities and decisions that go along with love-making.

My mother, Willa, provided me with much of the same information except she took it a little farther. She would relate her personal feelings and past experiences to the situations that I might encounter. She would say, "When I was a girl, the boys would try to take advantage of me, and you must not let them do this."

She would listen to me about how I felt

about boys, sex and marriage. And from these repeated discussions I formed my attitudes and ideas about an ideal love relationship.

Some of my basic ideas are: understanding and consideration for each other, a feeling of togetherness and unity through all situations and honesty and sincerity at all times. I am grateful that the two most important women in my life, took time to talk over the subject with me.

Sunnette, 17

I think my mother and father are affecting my attitude. They tell me what's good and bad about a relationship.

But, I think the biggest change I had was meeting this girl named Karen. Before I went with her I really didn't start thinking about girls seriously. I guess she is a big factor in my change-of-mind about love relationships.

David, 15

It's faith in my judgment



I watch my friends' relationships, and I try to look at my own relationships in order to figure out what the "ideal" is. I am different from most of my friends because I'm not sure that a person my age or a little older can be in love.

I think we are a little young to really know what love is. Since I am so sceptical about what love is (I mean love between a man and woman), I haven't worked out a definition yet.

Every day I see my own and my friends' relationships grow and diminish. I guess I am beginning to form attitudes slowly but surely.

Julie, 15

I trust my own feelings and signs. I've put together my idea of an ideal relationship piece by piece.

Before I dated I would talk to older girls who had boyfriends. I heard what they considered gains and mistakes. And I started putting together a picture for myself.

My mother and I are close and so we can talk about things like this. I don't feel shy about this kind of discussion with her.

Then my boyfriends added to the picture. Their actions toward me and mine towards them has taught me a lot.

I guess what I'm saying is that nobody has affected me so much as I have thought this thing through for myself.

Michelle, 17

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The Way It Is

by Brian Lewis

If you're not busy . . .

Ron is one of the most popular people in school. He's Slope Captain of the Ski Club, Fund-Raising Chairman of the Pep Club and Junior Class Photo Co-Coordinator (Names A thru H) for the Yearbook.

The way Ron's chemistry grades are going, he may get to be one of the most popular persons in summer school. That's why he welcomed the appearance of a new transfer student who was appointed his lab partner.

Julie came from a small town in Southern Illinois. She was a quiet student, but she was darned good at chemistry. She accepted Ron's invitation for a taste of Big City entertainment. He was sure that she spent her Saturday nights in Southern Illinois counting out-of-state license plates.

When that "exciting" night arrived,

Ron asked Julie if she could drop by his house for a few minutes while he arranged some things for the ski outing the next day. It seems that the Slope Captain stores all the members' skis in his basement. At one time they were stacked in pairs, but now through the help of a German Shepherd they were strewn all over the floor.

Julie agreed to help re-organize the mess. A few minutes into the job, Ron began taking his "business calls," and Julie became the total re-organizer. One hundred skis later, she promised to kill the next time she saw a Suzy Chaffe commercial.

About ten o'clock Ron got off the phone. "Well, let's go," he said, cheerfully.

"I can't go. I'm too tired," Julie sighed.

"Tired? Tired of what? The night's

young; let's go!"

"Let's go next week. Okay?"

The following Saturday Ron was responsible for blowing up 300 balloons in time for a basketball game that night. Ron picked up Julie early so that he could have the balloons ready for sale before the fans arrived at school. As soon as the blowing-up job got under way, Ron was sidetracked by people he needed to talk to.

Julie managed 75 balloons before she felt dizzy and thirsty. She staggered around the gym entrance looking for a water fountain. She felt like she had just entered the sixth cycle of an automatic washer.

Refreshed from the fount, she returned to find Ron counting the blown-up balloons. "Guess we'll have to go with these," he said with the voice of a dissatisfied assembly line foreman. Julie sank onto the bleachers.

"I think there's enough change here. But get somebody to come get me if you run out. I'll be over with the pep squad." She was too tired to argue.

The following Saturday Julie was willing to try again. They actually made it to dinner and a show before Ron remembered that he had the box of yearbook photos in the trunk of the car. He had to key each photo to the publication layout sheets by Monday morning. It would be a quick job, he said, and so much nicer to do with company.

Matching his photos with the pictures in last year's book was not quick. It was frustrating work. Ron excused himself to

get a magnifying glass from a neighbor and was gone two hours. By midnight she was drawing horns and enlarging the nostrils on Ron's yearbook photograph.

Julie's frustration with Ron was coming to a peak. One more favor! Ron asked Julie to sell ballots for his Mardi Gras campaign to be king of the ball.

Julie sold 761 nickel ballots for Ron. By election day, walking around with all the change she had collected, she sounded like an unloading slot machine.

Ron won the election by a landslide. Julie was excited until she found out she wouldn't be his date at the dance. She came anyhow.

While Ron was up on stage accepting the crown she had worked for, she found herself cursing him. Someone overheard.

"You don't like the jerk, either," he said.

"No, I don't. I sold over 700 ballots and didn't get asked out," she said.

"Yeah, I can't stand her either. I sold 300 votes for Linda," he said.

"I was talking about Ron Bay. Do I feel like a jerk," Julie said.

"So do I," he said.

They both laughed at themselves. He suggested they leave and have a good time. Maybe they could look for out-of-state license plates, Julie thought to herself.

Moral: A friend in need can be a "user" with greed.



Candidly Speaking

by Robert Kazel

Stop the testing mess

If Mrs. Pitts jumps two feet into the air on Monday, four feet on Tuesday, and eight feet on Wednesday, how far will she jump on the 2063rd day?

If someone on the street asked you that question, you'd probably walk away, quickly. But, for many of us reaching the end of high school, questions like this will determine to a large extent which college we get into, or if we get into one at all.

The letters A.C.T. and S.A.T. are familiar to most teenagers. The American College Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test are long, standardized exams in English, math, vocabulary, social science, science and language. Several million juniors and seniors pay to take them each year. Each student's scores are churned out by a computer

and sent to the college and universities of the student's choice. The colleges use the scores to help determine who to admit and who to reject.

Since the end of World War II, generations of students have been the victims of these two large corporations which control college entrance. But only in recent years have large numbers of students and parents voiced criticism of the exams.

Last month, Ralph Nader released a report called "The Reign of E.T.S.: The Corporation That Makes Up Minds." E.T.S. stands for the Educational Testing Service, the multi-million dollar company that writes the S.A.T. tests. The Nader report blasts the S.A.T. tests as "a specialized kind of fraud." The report claims that nine out of ten times the tests "predict first-year (college) grades no better than a random process such as a roll of the dice." The report says that

minority students who take the tests can be at a definite disadvantage. It attacks colleges whose admission requirements include a rigid test-score standard.

New York and California have already passed laws to regulate the testing process. Last year, the New York state legislature passed a so-called "truth in testing" law. The law became effective on January 1, though the testing corporations are fighting it in court. Under the law, a New York student who takes an S.A.T.-type test has the right to receive a copy of the exam, as well as his graded test paper, 30 days after he gets his scores. The testing firm also explains to every student who registers for the test how the exam was written and how it will be graded.

The actions of New York were well taken. Making college-entrance tests public after they've been given will eliminate much of the mystery surrounding these all-important exams. A student shouldn't find himself staring at his A.C.T. or S.A.T. scores, shaking his head and trying to figure out where he or she went wrong on the test. Moreover, if the exam questions do, in fact, discriminate against minorities, the sooner the exams are in the open for public discussion, the better.

The makers of the S.A.T. have argued that if every test is publicized, they won't be able to re-use any test questions. Their test-writers will have to work harder, they warn, and that means an increase in exam fees. But the writing of the exam does not cost more than a fraction of E.T.S.'s budget, and it seems

well worth paying a bit more to take tests which are not shrouded in secrecy.

Ralph Nader has said, "If I have anything to do with it, it will be the end of tests." Such an extreme position is not justified. Entrance tests are not fully reliable, but neither are high school grades. We have all been in classes in which we've had to slave over a stack of books just to pass. Since most teachers grade on different standards, it is impossible for colleges to know how a B+ student from one school really compares with a B+ student from another school.

Standardized entrance tests have a certain value, then. But colleges must remember that this value has lately come into question, and that the tests are only one factor. The scores should be considered *along with* high school grades, students' interviews and personal recommendations. In addition, more states, including Illinois, should pass "truth in testing" acts.

After speaking with the staffs of several Illinois state representatives, the Illinois Board of Education, and the E.T.S. corporation itself, I found that the Illinois General Assembly is not even considering proposals for a "truth in testing" law in Illinois.

It's time that Illinois teens follow the lead of New York students and convince our lawmakers of the need for this law. Write your state representative or senator in Springfield and urge that the General Assembly pass a "truth in testing" act. Once it does, we'll have a way to judge whether or not the present tests make the grade.

Letters

No tax support for abortion!

This is in response to a letter by Belinda Lee in the November issue. She stated that she would like Congress to pass a bill allowing women to use Medicaid as payment for abortions in certain cases. She listed these cases as: financial problems, pregnancy from rape or incest, and a pregnancy that endangers a woman's life.

I disagree. I feel that too often abortion is considered a means of birth control. It is not! There are cheap, easy methods of birth control available that are much safer than having an abortion.

If a woman will have financial difficulties by having a child, then she should obtain birth control medicine or use other methods, or remain chaste!

Because of the trauma involved, a woman will not usually become pregnant from rape. If she reports the matter to the police, she will probably be given an examination and birth control medicine. If a woman is unwillingly a victim of incest, she should report the matter to the police, and they would

probably handle it as a rape.

There are not many cases in which a woman's life is endangered by pregnancy, due to modern technology. However, there are some cases of this type which should be handled by Medicaid if necessary.

What the whole issue boils down to is Medicaid and tax money going to pay for the consequences of promiscuous teens.

Michelle Van Der Karr
Benet Academy

One of my students, Steven Anderson, whose letter was published in your January issue, referred to his English teacher who forces him and the rest of the class to write letters to you. I am that teacher.

Yes, indeed, I do "force" them to read your paper and write letters to the editor. "Forcing" my students to read worthwhile things and engage in writing activities is one of the things that I am hired to do. I consider your publication, on the

whole, extremely worthwhile.

I have sponsored the Von Steuben **Expressions**, a biweekly newspaper, for the past seven years, so I know only too well how deadlines must be met and emergencies dealt with. Your editors and writers are to be commended for their dedication.

I intend to continue to "force" Steve and the rest of the class to read and write to your publication. (And just between you and me, many, or even most of them would read your publication without being "forced.")

Joan Bjorkland
Von Steuben

Self knowledge and schools

I couldn't agree more with what the author of "Candidly Speaking" had to say. She was talking about how a student interested in drama was rejected at a school's drama organization because he didn't have a "C" average.

This is very unfair. How wonderful it is if you know what you want to be. I only wish more schools could center their programs on the individual talents of

students rather than making students take courses which will not do them any good.

Sharon Giovacchini

Need to be 'Scared Straight'

I'd like to comment on "The Inside Track." I just want to let you know that I think that writing about criminals in jail is very important. We need to inform juveniles of the trouble they could get into.

New Expression should keep informing teenagers that being in a cage (in jail) isn't fun.

Eunice Franklin

Send your Letters to the Editors by March 5 in order for them to appear in the March issue of **New Expression**. Include your name, address and phone number. You may include the name of the school you attend if you want us to print it. Send Letters to the Editor, New Expression, 207 S. Wabash, Chicago 60604.

Counter-act instead of re-act on the draft

President Carter has chosen to revive military registration. He will bring back the Selective Service System. The Selective Service System is an agency of the U.S. government whose job has been to draft men into the armed forces.

At this time the editors of **New Expression** are not ready to take a stand on President Carter's decision. We don't know what formal plan he will propose on Feb. 9. We don't know whether he will include women. We don't know whether Congress will go to war over oil or American hostages.

At the same time we do not want to appear to be neutral about required military training during peace time. As the younger generation we can sound pretty selfish to older generations when we say that we do not want to be drafted. But in our situation we feel that our lives should not be messed up unless we are offered a very serious reason.

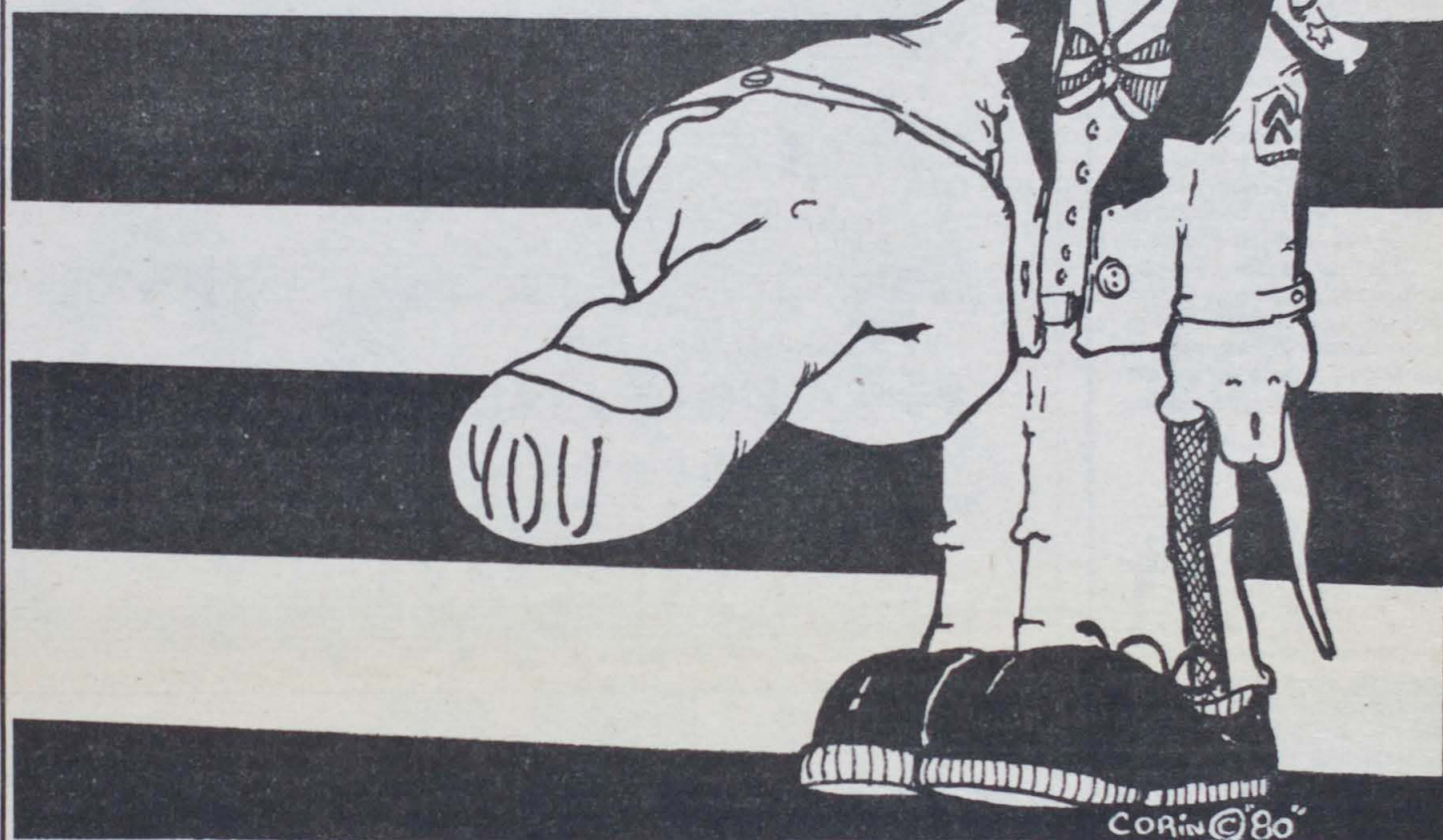
We feel that it is patriotic for each one of us to plan carefully for our own futures. We don't want the destroyed families and unemployed veterans that came out of Viet Nam. The draft is a big personal sacrifice and so youth deserve big reasons why they should make that sacrifice.

While all of us are waiting to hear more from the President and from Congress, the editors of **New Expression** propose that you discuss the meaning of all this so that you are able to express your opinion to those who will vote in November and to your own representative in Congress — who does read letters.

...I am convinced that our volunteer forces are adequate for our current defense needs. I hope that it will not become necessary to reimpose the draft.

However, we must be prepared for that possibility. For this reason I have determined that the Selective Service System must be revitalized. I will send legislation ... to the Congress so that we can begin registration and then meet future mobilization needs rapidly if they arise.

President Jimmy Carter



Draft questions to think about

- Should parents be drafted into the armed forces or will parents be deferred (excused from the draft)? If deferments for parents are allowed, will young adults have babies just to beat the draft? If mothers are deferred, would it be fair for the fathers to be drafted, especially at a time when equal responsibility for parenting is being accepted?
- If both women and men are drafted, how will selection apply to married couples? Will they both serve at the same time? Will they be able to be together wherever they serve?
- What does it mean to serve in a war that may end with the bomb? Will a major power take a defeat again (as the U.S. did in Viet Nam) or will the "loser" drop the bomb?
- How will a new draft system affect college education or job training? Will persons be deferred until they finish educational or training programs? Will high school dropouts and poor students be the first drafted? In order to counteract the Viet Nam situation, should college graduates be drafted first? Is it possible to keep the draft fair so that the wealthy and the children of the powerful are as eligible as the poor?



Read My Mind

by Rocio Hernandez

Scared to death

Today, when I walked into history class I actually heard discussions about the world situation. Before the President talked about the draft, I had never seen my friends so interested in what was going on in the world.

Now the world situation directly affects

us. Many of us don't want to think of what could happen or what changes can take place in each of our lives. When I hear people talk about how terrible it was when we were at war in Viet Nam, the talk brings chills crawling up my back.

I think of what it might be like fighting in a

Rocio Hernandez is a junior at Cathedral High School

war. The very thought of having to kill frightens me cold.

Then I check out my friends to see whether my reactions are "normal." One person tells me he really doesn't mind going because he wants to help defend his country. Another tells me he doesn't want to go because he will be expected to kill, and he has no heart for killing. Others could only say how frightened they are just to hear talk about being drafted.

I'm learning that it's easy just to read about the wars that have been fought. It's a whole different story to read about the war which may involve me. I see that the role of the patriot is not an easy one to play — whether the person goes to war or faces the consequences of being a moral objector.

Now as I listen to discussions about how wrong war really is, I wonder. Is this discussion happening because we may be drafted? Or is this discussion a reflection of our true sense of values, which we never discussed until war was in the spotlight? Whichever it is, I feel strange and uneasy about it.

The best that we can hope for now is that our leaders and our government will make the right decisions for the good of all of us.

The purpose of **READ MY MIND** is to allow a teen to be a one-time-only columnist for **New Expression**.

We encourage you to write a column to let other readers know how you feel and what you think.

If you are interested in writing a column for a future issue send your column to: The Editorial Director, **New Expression**, 207 S. Wabash, Chicago 60604. If you want to discuss your idea before you write, call (663-0543) and ask to talk with the Editor-in-chief.

TEEN NOTES

by Natalie Stockhard

"Who's Who" scam

The prestige of being listed in **Who's Who Among American High School Students** is decreasing. Families may be asked to buy these books for prices beginning at \$17.95, but Douglas W. Hunt of the National Association of Secondary School Principals discredits the sale of these books. He says that what they're selling is not so much a product as a vanity.

Mr. Hunt is not the only person to discredit these books. The Principal's Association, the National Association of College Admissions Counselors and the American School Counselors Association urge their members not to submit names to such publications. Layton Olson, vice president of the National Student Education Fund said, "When someone puts down one of these 'Who's Who' things on a resume, I figure the person is particularly immature, and didn't understand the game being played on him."

This year as many as half a million of the country's 6.2 million juniors and seniors will receive letters inviting them to participate in up to half a dozen of 'Who's Who' type publications.

Court acts on abortion rules

Last month's "Teen Notes" carried a mistake about the abortion issue. The following sentences are under injunction by the Illinois courts. This means that until the Illinois Court decides whether or not to put these sentences into the abortion law, they are NOT in effect.

- a) if a pregnant girl is under 18-years-old, her doctor is not required to inform the father of the child or the girl's parents before an abortion operation takes place.
- b) in the information provided for the women, the doctor or clinic does not have to provide a detailed description of the fetus.
- c) the doctor or clinic does not have to provide a statement that the State "strongly encourages you not to have an abortion."

Football and swim clinics

For you football players, a unique type of football clinic will be offered from 6 to 8 pm every Tuesday during February at the Richard J. Daley Bicentennial Plaza, 337 East Randolph Dr., in Grant Park. The Feb. 19 class is designed to aid the high school players to take part in organized competition. It will include conditioning, injury prevention and advice on equipment. The Feb. 26 class is for those interested in officiating. Discussions will be conducted on rules, regulations and methods.

For swimmers, the Feb. 20 session will include the basic fundamentals of water skiing, and the Feb. 27 class will be devoted to scuba instruction and scuba safety.

The fee for each session is \$2.50. For further information, call 294-4790.

Teaser

Can you tune into movie themes?

by Carmen Walker
and Fannie LeFlore

Instructions: The following musical scores are tunes from some of the most popular movies of the 70's. Using a musical instrument, or just humming out the notes, try to match the name of the movie on the right with the score above. If you are a musician, this puzzle is a great way to challenge your ability to sight read. If not, it's fun to do anyway.

A. A Star is Born

- The Way We Were
- Fiddler on the Roof
- The Wiz
- The Greatest
- Hello, Dolly!
- Ben
- Star Wars
- On A Clear Day You Can See Forever
- Mahogany
- You Light Up My Life

How to Enter:

1. Write your answers on a sheet of paper numbered 1-11.
2. Along with your answers, send your name, address,

school, and phone number to Youth Communication, Teen Teasers, 207 South Wabash, 8th floor, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

3. All answers must be received no later than February 28, 1980.

4. People working for Youth Communication cannot participate in the contest.

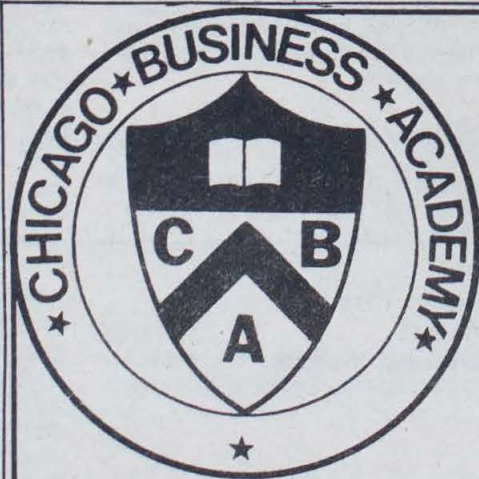
5. All winning entries will be submitted in a lottery where five finalists will be chosen and awarded prizes. Names of all winners will be published in the March issue of NE.

Each winner will receive a record album from Sound Warehouse.

January Winners

All of the nineteen entries that we received for our January Teaser were correct. In order to determine the ten prize winners, we held a lottery. The winners are: Rhonda Stone, Lakeview; Deborah Reed, Steinmetz; Denotra Greenwood, Percy Julian; James Calendar, Percy Julian; Ray Allen, Westinghouse; Steve Knupp, Amundsen, Sarah Collins, Aquinas Dominican; Carlos Valdez, Whitney Young; Evelyn Garcia, Steinmetz and LaRuby Sangster, Lindblom.

Each winner will receive a record album from Sound Warehouse.



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Calendar

February

- 15 Chinese New Year; celebrations in Chinatown, the New Year's parade with the dragon, also Feb. 16.
- Free to Choose presents "What's Wrong with Our Schools?" Ch. 11, 9 pm.
- 16 ACT Testing Day.
- 18 Presidents' Day — School Holiday.
- 19 All-day registration for voting in Chicago precincts (see page 3 for information).
- Mardi Gras.
- 22 "A Company of Wayward Saints," Indian Boundary Park, 2500 W. Lunt, 7:30 pm, also Feb. 23, 24, 29, March 1 and 2. \$1.
- "North to the Promised Land," at the Dance Center of Columbia College, 4730 N. Sheridan Rd., 8 pm, \$2.50.
- 24 Sound Stage: Doobie Brothers, Ch. 11, 6 pm.
- 25 "Scruples," Ch. 2, 8-10 pm. (Parts 2 and 3 at the same time slot Feb. 26 and 27.)
- 29 SAT Late Registration Deadline.
- Sadie Hawkins Day.

March

- 1 Youth Perspective Conference, I Am That I Am Mission, 1800 W. Hastings, 10 am. Free. (See page 2 for information.)
- 2 Youth Perspective Conference, Alba Community Center, 1324 S. Loomis, 4 pm. Free. (See page 2 for information.)
- 4 "Bogie," Ch. 2, 8 pm.
- 5 "White Mama," Ch. 2, 8-10 pm.
- 14 ACT Registration Deadline for Apr. 12 test.
- 15 Youth Perspective Conference, Brainard Community Organization, 10 am. Free. (See page 2 for more information.)
- 19 Illinois Presidential Primary election, also Senator, House of Representatives, States Attorney, etc.
- 20 "Palmerstown, U.S.A.," a TV mini-series by Norman Lear and Alex Haley about the friendship between a black and white family in the rural south, Ch. 2, 7-9 pm.



Ernest Harden, Jr., stars with veteran actress Bette Davis in "White Mama," the story of the relationship between a penniless widow and a tough street kid to be broadcast March 5.

Theatre we would recommend

- "Eubie," at the Studebaker thru March 2 (435-0700).
- "An Enemy of the People," at the Goodman Theater starring Paul Winfield until Feb. 24 (443-3800).
- "Banjo Dancing," Apollo Theatre (935-6100).
- "The Elephant Man," at the Blackstone thru Feb. 23 (977-1700).
- "Evolution of the Blues," Drury Lane, Water Tower Place (266-0500).

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Music

On Stage

Li'l Johnny and the Fantastics

Their range is pretty typical — drums, horns and guitars. But their soloists are pretty extraordinary — a 10-year-old drummer and a 12-year-old lead singer.

Both Johnny Black, the drummer, and Vernetta Black, the songstress, have been performing since they were "kids." It all started when Li'l Johnny saw his older brother playing the drums. Johnny was three years old at the time.

Vernetta was a little older — eight — when she entered the music world. Her natural soprano voice allows her to attempt difficult vocals such as Evelyn Champagne King's "Shame" and Denice Williams' "Free."

Of course, these two talented pre-teens don't do it alone. They are backed up by their mother, who manages the group, and a sister who does vocal back-ups. Two half-brothers, Roosevelt and Johnny, play lead and bass guitar.

The only non-family members in the group are the trumpet/congo player, Larry Kayles and the saxophonist, Eddie Laromore. At age 19 they're also the senior citizens of the group.

The band features Vernetta and Johnny in all of their shows, centering them in very professional arrangements. The group ignores flashy costumes and gimmicks in favor of quality music.

Li'l Johnny has problems getting high school engagements. Because of his age, school principals are not allowing the group to be booked for dances. If you are interested in making contact with Li'l Johnny and the Fantastics, call Mrs. Long at 667-0931.

Antonio Brown

Chart Climbers

Pink Floyd, "The Wall," (\$13.98). The genius of Roger Waters and Pink Floyd shines through in this latest masterwork. The album continues in the cynical vein of "Animals." But, rather than presenting straight social commentary, the new record presents an intriguing psychodrama.

"The Wall" tells the story of one man's total collapse. That man is the fictional band member, "Mr. Floyd." We learn about his unhappy childhood, his swiftly dissolving marriage and his on-stage psychological breakdown. In a final, surreal courtroom scene in "Floyd's" own mind, the score creates a chilling image symbolizing our mental "Walls," which keep others out, but which keep us prisoners.

This original and brilliant story line is combined with the unmistakable sounds of Pink Floyd and the studio technique of Waters and Co., which gets better with every new record. The best cuts on the album are the collaborations between Waters (the bassist) and David Gilmore (the guitarist), "Young Lust," "Comfortably Numb," and "Run Like Hell."

"The Wall" is a must album for any serious collector.

Adam Weintraub

Aerosmith, "Night in the Ruts," (\$7.98). Loyal fans will be glad to hear that this latest release is an excellent follow-up to their not-so-popular live "Bootleg" L.P. The album features one unusual single, "Remember Walking in the Sand." It's a remake of the Shangri-La's tune with an odd twist in the form of several guitar riffs by lead player Joe Perry.

This album is a real winner.

Jerome Rhodes

Musical Notes

Pink Floyd will be performing in Los Angeles and New York. They will be featuring cuts from their new album "The Wall" with some very different methods using a 120-foot wall made of 5 lb. polystyrene bricks. In order to demonstrate a theory of human defenses in the form of mental walls, they will block themselves completely from the audience. For Rock fans heavily into Pink Floyd this will be one show you won't want to miss!

Flash Back



Billy Joel

Billy Joel, "The Stranger," (\$7.98). Besides the notable single "Just the Way You Are," this album includes quality cuts that never hit the radio stations such as "Vienna" and "Italian Restaurant."

These numbers display Billy's inimitable phrasing with long tones and high notes fronted by expressive, mood-setting lyrics. The use of these vocal devices sets Billy apart from other artists.

The album also offers an autobiographical feel for Joel. The Italian numbers relate to his cultural background with his family, who are pictured on the back of the album cover. His "Only the Good Die Young" is a protest of his first rejection by a girl, his high school sweetheart, Virginia.

The result is a classic album with stylistic, easy-to-listen-to music.

Upcoming Concerts

Feb. 13-16 Tony Orlando is making a comeback at the Holiday Star.

Feb. 17-19 Chuck Mangione will be appearing also at the Holiday Star featuring his hit "Feels So Good."

Feb. 16 brings Harry Chapin and his band to the Granada.

March 16, 17 holds the heavy metal sounds of UFO at the Amphitheatre.

March 23, Gladys Knight and the Pips in an awaited Chicago performance at the Holiday Star.

April 3, brings Rush to Amphitheatre for three nights through April 5. Tickets will be selling fast.

Movies

The Fog

A little over a year ago director John Carpenter's "Halloween" quietly came to Chicago. Within a week it was being compared to Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho" by local and national critics.

"Halloween" was the best thriller I have seen in years, but "The Fog," by comparison, is a disappointment. Still it's better than most horror pictures.

In the first scene we see a man telling a group of kids a ghost story. The ghost story becomes the plot for the movie. As a result, the audience can't take the story seriously.

"Halloween" worked on the fact that it could happen; this one doesn't. It's just a movie to sit back, enjoy and scream.

The story is set in a small California town where one hundred years ago some townspeople killed some sailors and stole their gold. On the one hundredth anniversary of the murder the sailors come back to get their gold. They emerge from a thick fog which is covering the town.

Adrienne Barbeau (formerly of "Maude") in her first starring role plays a radio D.J. who reports the direction of the fog. She could have picked a better role for her first movie.

Jamie Lee Curtis (the survivor of the massacre in "Halloween") is given all the good shock scenes.

Although "The Fog" suffers from poor dialogue (at points) and sub-par special effects (the fog machine is all but visible at times), the production is not a movie to analyze while you are watching. Just sit back and wait for the shocks and screams.

Brian Lewis

The Runner Stumbles

As we enter a new year and a new decade of movies, "The Runner Stumbles" is a pretty good film for starters.

The scene is set in the mid 1920's in a small rural town. Father Rivard (Dick Van Dyke) is a brilliant priest who has been exiled into this small town because he made some radical statements about the church.

A young nun, Sister Rita (Kathleen Quinn), is assigned to his parish. She makes him happy because she reminds him of his younger self. She's very energetic. (She also lightens up the movie.)

Fr. Rivard is the happiest he's been in twenty years. All is fine until he realizes that he loves her and she loves him.

The setting of the quiet, small town produces beautiful film images. The mood of the twenties created in these flashbacks is in sharp contrast to the violence of the murder trial where Fr. Rivard is accused of killing Sr. Rita.

Dick Van Dyke in this role proves that



The Fog

he can handle more than comedy roles. He forcefully develops Fr. Rivard, who struggles between his love for a woman and his obedience to God. Van Dyke takes charge of the movie.

So if you're looking for a movie that's thoughtful and entertaining, check out "The Runner Stumbles." Van Dyke is excellent, and the photography may amaze you.

Brian Lewis

American Gigolo

Here is the world of elite Californians — beach houses, designer wardrobes, fast sports cars and gigolos. These are all very interesting, but not very entertaining.

Rich Gere ("Yanks") stars in the title role as Julian Kay. He's one of the highest paid gigolos in town. He has everything, but he's lonely, not for companionship but for love. He also is taking business away from the wrong people.

Julian finds love in the arms of another lonely heart, a senator's wife (played by Lauren Hutton). At the same time, he's being investigated for the murder of one of his clients.

The problem with this love story is that the audience never sees the couple falling in love. And so it comes as a shock to see them meet each other with embraces as though they had been separated for years.

Gere does what he can with the script and comes off quite well. I found myself believing in him even though many of his remarks are pretty corny.

Just as the love story fails, the crime plot also fails in the end. I suggest if you want to see sex and soap opera like this, stay home and watch "General Hospital" for free.

Brian Lewis

Television

Skag

It's been a long time since NBC (Ch. 5) has introduced a winning dramatic series. "Skag" may change NBC's luck.

The realism of this series is largely due to the scriptwriting. The dialog between members of the family is not the soap opera type, though many of the topics — jealousy, bigotry, distrust, family loyalty — are the same as the soaps.

The moods are set by effective acting and strong camera-work. The camera helps us see the situation through the eyes of the characters, for example, the long, empty table at Barbara's birthday party or the swirl of mean faces as some bullies hassle a popular girl at an ice skating rink.

The director doesn't rely on music and special effects to portray emotion; he relies on talent. Karl Malden has a more demanding role as "Skag" than he had in "Streets of San Francisco." Piper Laurie may become better known for herself, Carrie, rather than as Skag's wife.

Most of all, the characters' arguments are out in the open the way they are in most families. The family members are loyal to one another without agreeing

with one another's conduct. They are all influenced by the changes going on in the world even though this is the steel workers' world. In other words, this is not the sophisticated newspaper world of Lou Grant.

Try "Skag" on Thursday night for a family that's closer to our reality than "The Waltons" ever were.

Denise Bronson

Tenspeed and Brown Shoes

Here is the ultimate Odd Couple: a con man (otherwise known as a tenspeed) and a business man (otherwise known as a brown shoe). But there's nothing odd about this show. It's going to be a hit!

Ben Vereen as Ten-speed proves that he doesn't have to dance to entertain. Vereen really puts energy into the role. The script keeps him one step ahead of everyone, quick-talking and keeping the show's pace interesting.

Goldblum, who plays the reserved business man, seems to be trying to develop a Cary Grant image. He plays patsy for his pushy fiancée. But even the



Tenspeed and Brown Shoes

humor of the role doesn't allow him to match Vereen's energy.

Ten Speed and Brown Shoe is the kind of show "Starsky and Hutch" could have been. It's a detective show that doesn't try to lay down a heavy message. It just entertains.

Brian Lewis